UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/798
24 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 18 August Juche 87 (1998) concerning the large-scale "Ulji Focus Lens" joint military exercises, which are being staged in south Korea.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement of the Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued at Pyongyang on 18 August 1998

At present, the large-scale "Ulji Focus Lens" joint military exercises are being staged throughout south Korea with the mobilization of huge United States and south Korean armed forces.

The joint military exercises, scheduled to continue for 12 days, until August 28, in all parts of south Korea, including Seoul, are participated in by a large military force, over 70,000 strong, including about 13,000 American occupation troops of south Korea belonging to the "Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command" and the south Korean puppet army.

The exercises are, in all intents and purposes, part of the provocative and aggressive military moves to gain military supremacy over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and perfect military preparations for another war on the Korean peninsula.

We are taking a serious view of the fact that the exercises are not an isolated annual one.

As already known, the United States has deployed in the East Sea of Korea a huge amount of military personnel and hardware, including a nuclear-powered attack submarine of the United States Pacific Command, since late July, under the pretext of "jointly guarding against possible provocation" by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and staged "joint operational" exercises along with the south Korean puppet army.

The "Ulji Focus Lens" war game, which is being staged in all parts of south Korea at this very juncture, cannot be construed otherwise than as a dangerous military confrontation racket motivated by a sinister intention to militarily get on the nerves of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to deliberately render the situation on the Korean peninsula strained.

The "Ulji Focus Lens", which began in the mid-1970s, is being continued even in the late 1990s when the cold war has come to an end. This clearly proves that the United States-advertised appeasement policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a sham and that the United States authorities have not yet abandoned the anachronistic policy of stifling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea militarily.

The dark clouds of war are still hovering over the south of the Korean peninsula with war rehearsals being staged one after another. The present grave situation is attributable to the United States forces' occupation of south Korea.

Historical facts fully show that the United States forces are a wrecker of peace on the Korean peninsula and a main obstacle lying in the way of peaceful

reunification. They eloquently prove the justice of our argument that only when the United States forces are immediately pulled out of south Korea can it be possible to solve the issue of the Korean peninsula fairly and in a peaceful way.

Recently the United States and the south Korean authorities have never missed an opportunity to plead for a dialogue with us.

The war rehearsals conducted against us, which are being staged in succession, clearly show again that they are paying lip service to dialogue and negotiations in a bid to cover up their preparations for a war of aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Their double-dealing tactics against the desire and requirements of the international community for peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula, as well as the trend of the times towards détente and reconciliation, will only give rise to negative consequences. The United States and the south Korean authorities must be aware of this.

To answer dialogue with dialogue, war with war, is our consistent position.

Our people and People's Army will always watch every movement of the United States and the south Korean authorities with heightened vigilance and will decisively frustrate any militarily provocative moves of the enemies.